

IN THE CLAIMS

Kindly amend the claims as indicated below. A marked-up version of the amended claims, showing insertions and deletions, is included in Appendix A.

Sub
D1
A1

1 1. (Amended) A method of advancing a mining machine having an advancing machine
2 operatively connected thereto, comprising:
3 bracing the advancing machine between side walls of a mine opening independently of
4 the mining machine by a first set of braces fixedly mounted on the advancing machine;
5 moving the mining machine away from the advancing machine;
6 bracing the mining machine between the side walls independently of the advancing
7 machine by a second set of braces fixedly mounted on the mining machine;
8 releasing the advancing machine; and
9 moving the advancing machine toward the mining machine.

1 2. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein said bracing includes bracing the
2 advancing machine and the mining machine between a roof and a floor of said mine opening.

Sub
D1
A1

1 4. (Amended) A method of steering a mining machine having a plurality of sides and
2 having an advancing machine operatively connected thereto, comprising:
3 bracing the advancing machine between side walls of a mine opening independently of
4 the mining machine by a set of braces fixedly mounted on the advancing machine; and
5 increasing a distance between the advancing machine and the mining machine by
6 different amounts on two of the plurality of sides.

Sub D1
A3

1 7. (Amended) A method of retrieving a mining machine having an advancing machine
2 operatively connected thereto, comprising:
3 bracing the advancing machine between side walls of a mine opening independently
4 from the mining machine by a first set of braces fixedly mounted on the advancing machine;
5 moving the mining machine toward the advancing machine;
6 releasing the advancing machine;
7 bracing the mining machine between side walls of a mine opening independently from
8 the advancing machine by a second set of braces fixedly mounted on the mining machine; and
9 moving the advancing machine away from the mining machine.

Sub D1
A4

1 10. (Amended) An apparatus for advancing and steering a mining machine, comprising:
2 an advancing machine;
3 an extender operatively coupled between said advancing machine and the mining
4 machine and capable of extension and retraction; and
5 a brace coupled to said advancing machine and being extendable independently of said
6 extender to brace said advancing machine between side walls of a mine opening.